

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Fortification Along the Austrian Border
25X1

DATE DISTR. 24 May 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES TO REVEAL OR DISCLOSE THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON OR TO TRANSMIT OR COMMUNICATE THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT BY ANY MEANS, OR TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Important fortifications are being built along the Austrian border. There are two groups in charge of sections, one known as the West Staff, the other as the East Staff. The western limit of the area under the West Staff is not known, but its eastern limit is at the point where the German, Czech and Austrian borders meet, and the East Staff has charge as far as a point near Bratislava.
2. The fortifications are carried forward in various phases. In the first, the forbidden zone along the border is deepened. Formerly the area called the "dead zone" by the Czechs was one to two km deep, running parallel with the border. At present the depth of the zone is being doubled and it is being fortified according to the nature of the ground.
3. In the second phase, new military installations are being put in. Ruins are being removed and a good deal of leveling done. All buildings that might be of use to an enemy are torn down. All trees and bushes that might serve as cover for refugees are cut down. Only those buildings are left that will be of use to the guards.
4. In further stages infantry firing positions and approach trenches are dug. Concealed artillery positions are to be installed, concreted in, but these have not yet been begun. The current artillery positions are merely dug out and protected by earth walls.
5. New watchtowers for the border guard have been built of wood, of an average height of 15 m. All are equipped with machine guns and searchlights. Specially important towers have alarm sirens. Accordion wire, connected with alarms, is on the ground.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

25X1

SECRET

[illegible]

This report is for the use of the USA of the Intelligence components of the Departments or Agencies indicated on the cover page without the necessity of further review by the Assistant Director of the Office of Collection and Dissemination. All intelligence publications receiving overseas distribution providing the publication bears the caveat "All information contained herein is unclassified unless otherwise indicated." [Redacted]

25X1

SECRET

25X1

-2-

6. Along the roads there are roadblocks that can be rapidly installed and the roads are bored for the insertion of mines.
7. In the final phase of the fortification work, concrete firing positions for light guns and machine guns are to be installed.
8. The ready positions are not yet occupied, only guarded by the SNB (National Security Services) and militia, with a few exceptions. One of these is in the Trhove-Sviny sector, where a Czech unit with 12 to 14 Stalin organ rocket projectors has been installed since the fall of 1955.
9. The following works have been observed. South of Sušice, an observation tower and a roadblock. In the Dačice area, three roadblocks and numerous mine positions. In the triangle Trhové Sviny-Olesnice-Schorsch, an observation tower, an artillery observation position, a firing position for a battery of artillery, three roadblocks and mine positions. In the area of Poliker ~~/sic/~~-Bradee ~~/sic/~~-Jindrichuv, two roadblocks and an observation tower.
10. The work is being done by army labor battalions and Czechoslovak technical troops, together with workers from the state undertakings who are skilled in handling concrete. Only tested Communists are employed. No labor norms have been established, and as a result the work goes slowly, although it is well done.

- end -

25X1

...6. Along the road.

SECRET